February 2024 Newsletter

Happy 2024, Friends!

Somehow, it’s already mid-February in the new year, but your Planetary Sciences Section leadership is just getting started. We have some exciting updates to share!

First, it's nominations season again—and I’m not talking about the Oscars. Nominations are open for AGU Union-level awards, Fellows, and Section-level awards. You can find information on all three categories below, together with their submission deadline:

- **Union Medals, Awards, and Prizes**: 1 March
- **Union Fellows**: 27 March
- **Planetary Sciences Section-level Awards**: 27 March

A big change this year is that AGU has overhauled its nominations process for Union-level medals, awards and prizes; those changes include a move to a two-step process, anonymizing submissions in the first step and allowing self nominations. You can find details of these changes, together with FAQs, here:

[https://www.agu.org/honors/umap-updates](https://www.agu.org/honors/umap-updates)

In parallel with AGU updating its nominations procedure, the Planetary Sciences Section has also changed how it will approach award nominations going forward. We have folded the role of canvassing for Union- and Section-level awards (including Fellows) into the responsibility of the Executive Committee, aided by (ex officio canvassing member) AGU Fellow Phil Christensen. If you’re planning to nominate a colleague for a Union- or Planetary Sciences Section-level award, feel free to reach out to us—we’ll be happy to help!

As a reminder, the members of the PS Section Executive Committee are listed at the end of this message, together with their email addresses. I’ll also take this opportunity to update you on the membership of our other Section Committees:
Awards Committee (for evaluating but not soliciting nominations):

- Nicole Zellner
- Wendy Calvin
- Julie Castillo
- Michael Mischna
- Bill McKinnon

AGU Annual Meeting Program Committee:

- Sarah Horst
- Wes Patterson
- Catherine Neish

Each of these committees requires a considerable amount of effort, and I am very grateful to everyone listed here for their volunteer service. My thanks, too, to Amanda Hendrix, who has rotated off the Annual Meeting Program Committee as she takes on her new role as the JGR: Planets Editor-in-Chief.

Last but not least, we are finally (!) in the process of updating the AGU Planetary sciences Section website. We'll put these newsletter notices on the front page, and will be revising and refreshing the other tabs on the site, starting with the Committees page.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or comments, don’t hesitate to reach out at paul.byrne@wustl.edu. And if you have any deadlines, events or announcements you would like to share, please email Sarah Hörst.

Paul

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(1) Exoplanets In Our Backyard III

We are happy to announce the Exoplanets in our Backyard III workshop scheduled for 13–15 November, 2024 at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, KY USA. The workshop format will be in-person only.

Exoplanets in Our Backyard focuses on the collaborative exploration of exoplanets, uniting researchers from various scientific disciplines to share knowledge and expertise, particularly in the detection and characterization of exoplanet atmospheres. Emphasizing discussion and cross-disciplinary research, this workshop aims to inspire and educate participants of all experience levels in the collective effort to understand distant worlds and their formation processes.

To be added to the mailing list to receive additional information about this conference, submit an indication of interest.

You can find more information on the meeting website.

SOC Members: Thomas Fauchez (Co-Chair), Erika Kohler (Co-Chair), Raphael Attié, Elsa Ducrot, Sarah Moran, Stephanie Olson, Eddie Schwieterman

LOC Members: Timothy Dowling (Chair), Gerard Williger, Benne Holwerda

(2) Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets, Volume 129, Issue 1

https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/21699100/2024/129/1

Articles preceded by (OA) are published with open access.


8. (OA) A New Mechanism for Stishovite Formation During Rapid Compression of Quartz and Implications for Asteroid Impacts, by Christoph Otzen, Hanns-Peter Liermann, Falko Langenhorst, https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JE008126


17. Modal Petrology and Mineral Chemistry of the <1 mm Size Fraction of Lunar Regolith in Apollo 17 Drive Tube Section 73002, by S. B. Simon, M. J. Cato, C. K. Shearer, the ANGSA Science Team, https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JE007991


Articles preceded by (OA) are published with open access

1. UV Reflectance of Spacecraft Materials and Analog Soils: Implications for Bioburden Reductions on the Undersides of Mars Rovers, by Andrew C. Schuerger, John E. Moores, https://doi.org/10.10292023JE007975


3. (OA) Boulder Diversity in the Nightingale Region of Asteroid (101955) Bennu and Predictions for Physical Properties of the OSIRIS-REx Sample, by Erica R. Jawin, Ronald-L. Ballouz, Andrew J. Ryan, Hannah H. Kaplan, Timothy J. McCoy, Manar M. Al Asad, Jamie L. Molaro, Benjamin Rozitis, Lindsay P. Keller, https://doi.org/10.10292023JE008019

4. (OA) Heterogeneous Processes in the Atmosphere of Mars and Impact on H2O2 and O3 Abundances, by Frank Daerden, John N. Crowley, Lori Neary, Michael D. Smith, Mark J.


17. (OA) Spectral Analysis of Mare Ingenii Basin (Lunar Farside), by Giulia Salari, Gloria Tognon, Francesca Zambon, Cristian Carli, Federico Tosi, Lorenza Giacomini, Jean-Philippe Combe, Riccardo Pozzobon, Sergio Fonte, Matteo Massironi, Giovanna Rinaldi, https://doi.org/10.10292023JE007963

18. Unraveling the Fate of Impacted Ice Particles and the Consequences for Plume Fly-Through Missions, by Valerie Scott, Hao Jiang, Bo Li, Sally E. Burke, Morgan E. C. Miller, Robert E. Continetti, Amy E. Hofmann, https://doi.org/10.10292023JE007830


Articles preceded by (OA) are published with open access

1. Orbital and In Situ Observation of Transverse Aeolian Ridges at Zhurong Landing Site, by Jia Liu, Yang Liu, Wenhui Wan, Xiang Zhou, Zhenxing Zhao, Yuchun Wu, Chaolin Zhang, Xiyu Wang, Xing Wu, Yongliao Zou, https://doi.org/10.1029/2023JE007857


13. (OA) Martian Atmospheric Aerosols Composition and Distribution Retrievals During the First Martian Year of NOMAD/TGO Solar Occultation Measurements: 2. Extended Results, End of MY 34 and First Half of MY 35, by Aurélien Stolzenbach, Miguel-Angel López Valverde, Adrian Brines, Ashimananda Modak, Bernd Funke, Francisco González-Galindo, Ian Thomas, Giuliano Liuzzi, Gerónimo Villanueva, Mikhail Luginin, Shohei Aoki, Udo Grabowski, José Juan Lopez


23. Martian Crustal Model From a Joint Inversion of Receiver Functions and Apparent Shear Wave Velocity, by Mingwei Dai, Daoyuan Sun, https://doi.org/10.1029/2022JE007702


(5) Fieldwork Culture Survey

Join us in shaping the fieldwork culture in the Earth and space sciences! Please take 5-15 minutes to share your experiences conducting fieldwork. Your insights will help shape a practical strategy to make field environments more inclusive and supportive for everyone involved. Submit your survey by 1 March.